

in the woods one very warm day. These two were flitting their white tail feathers, and chatting much as they do up north here before a snow-storm. I laughed to my wife about the persistency of habit in an environment where such prophecy could be failure only, and we were sorry for the birds. *The next day after the morrow it snowed.*

I was impressed (in many strolls in the woods and swampy tangles, along with some extensive buggy rides) with the scarcity of old bird-nests. Northern people residing there tell me that in the breeding season, bird life is not nearly so evident as it is further north.

I did not hear of or observe any loss of birds by freezing. I see accounts of great destruction on the south Atlantic coast. Neither can I note any diminution of the birds here in Missouri this spring. On the contrary they seem to be unusually abundant and active—a fact noted by the ordinary observer.

I have not seen any Bluebirds, but am able to hear of them in various directions.

JAMES NEWTON BASKETT.

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## SOME WESTERN HORIZONS.

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It has long been the fond dream of the writer to take a *leisurely* trip to the Pacific coast, stopping by the way from time to time to take sample horizons. The dream is in a fair way or realization as I pen these lines from Green River, Wyoming, on the Union Pacific railroad.

Birding from a car window is not very satisfactory, never-the-less it is inevitable for one who has birds on the brain. Hence it is that I have lists of "Birds seen between South Bend, Indiana, and Chicago," and "Birds seen between Glidden, Iowa, and Omaha, Neb.," but they are scarcely worth reproducing in print.

Waterloo, Nebraska, was chosen as a fair representative of the eastern portion of the state. This little town is situated in the fertile and well wooded valley of the Elkhorn River, near where this stream unites with the Platte. The woods on the river banks and adjoining lagoons were swarming with birds. The prairie proper and the upland are mostly given over to Dickcissel and he occupies himself here with his endless task of "sheep shearing."

A day was spent at Waterloo, that is from 9 a. m. of one day to the same hour of the next. Owing to a thunderstorm during the night and

a following cold wave, the second morning was very unpropitious and it did not swell the total horizon as much as we had reason to expect.

Sixty-two species were found and they are enumerated below simply in the order of their appearance, with letters "C" for common and "A" for abundant to indicate the more pronounced birds.

#### THE WATERLOO HORIZON.

|                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Robin (rare).              | Cliff Swallow.             |
| Baltimore Oriole. C.       | Desert (?) Horned Lark. C. |
| Catbird. C.                | Killdeer.                  |
| Red-headed Woodpecker.     | Solitary Sandpiper.        |
| House Wren. A.             | Black Tren.                |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak. A. | Swainson's Hawk.           |
| Blue Jay. A.               | Cooper's (?) Hawk.         |
| Brown Thrasher. C.         | LeConte's Sparrow.         |
| Mourning Dove. A.          | Bobolink.                  |
| Bronzed Grackle.           | Yellow-shafted Flicker.    |
| Red-eyed Vireo.            | Barn Swallow.              |
| Warbling Vireo.            | Sanderling (?).            |
| Redstart.                  | Nighthawk.                 |
| American Goldfinch.        | Lark Sparrow.              |
| Kingbird. A.               | Red-winged Blackbird.      |
| Wood Thrush.               | Least Flycatcher.          |
| Western Meadowlark.        | Olive-backed Thrush.       |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet.      | Black-capped Chickadee.    |
| Western Yellow-throat.     | Spotted Sandpiper.         |
| Dickcissel. A.             | Purple Martin.             |
| Grasshopper Sparrow.       | Tennessee Warbler,         |
| Cowbird.                   | Black-and-white Warbler.   |
| Indigo Bunting.            | Bob-white.                 |
| Oven-bird.                 | White-throated Sparrow.    |
| Yellow Warbler.            | Hairy Woodpecker.          |
| Bluebird.                  | Lincoln's Sparrow.         |
| Phoebe.                    | Song Sparrow.              |
| Orchard Oriole. C.         | Pine Siskin.               |
| American Crow.             | White-breasted Nuthatch.   |
| Bank Swallow.              | Towhee.                    |
| Clay-colored Sparrow. A.   | Downy Woodpecker.          |

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